

IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA

Scms Facts and Figures Concerning the Extent of the Industry.

MANY MILES OF DITCH ARE BEING USED

Thousands More Are Under Way of Construction—Total Cost of the Work Compared with Total Value of the Land.

LINCOLN, Feb. 5.—(Special).—If all the irrigation canals in Nebraska were stretched out in a straight line they would reach from Omaha to Boston and the canal now being constructed, if attached to the west end of the line would reach from Omaha to Ogden.

The projected ditches, permits for which applications have been filed, if added to the canal would stretch from Heaton to San Francisco and then many miles north toward Alaska. The increase in the value of the land now under irrigation, if converted into money and divided up among the people of Nebraska, would give each man woman and child 25 acres, with an old \$750,000 over and above. Most of the canals now in use or being constructed were established by permits secured under the old irrigation law. The law was changed in 1895, but practically all of the water permits up to the present time have been secured under this law. The applications made under the new law since 1895 have mostly been completed to wait until it could be ascertained there would be water to spare. After the ditches under the old permits had been put in. Thus the following showing of the irrigation ditches constructed or in course of construction in Nebraska, from 1857, are all from permits secured under the old law:

Table with 3 columns: County, Miles in construction, Miles completed. Lists counties like Adams, Hamilton, Boone, etc., with corresponding mileages.

AMOUNT OF MONEY INVESTED.

In the thirty-nine counties 1,216,524 acres of land have been placed under irrigation and the estimated increase in the value of the land on account of the irrigation is \$9,732,192, or at the rate of \$8 per acre. The cost of the work has been \$1,216,524, and the estimated cost of the total mileage when the ditches now in course of construction are completed, reaches \$1,810,000. The estimated cost expended in any one county has been in Dawson, where up to date the 253.75 miles of ditches, completed and in course of construction, have cost \$474,812.25. It is estimated that much more will be needed to complete the work. The number of acres in this county receiving water through these ditches is 327,720, and the estimated value of the water is \$2,061,760. Next to Dawson the county having already expended the most money is Hillcock, where it has cost \$169,299.79 to place 112 miles of ditches under 42,483 acres. It being estimated that the completion of all the works in this county will cost \$225,507. In point of number of acres watered, Deuel county comes next to Dawson, having 165,333 acres of watered lands, the cost up to date being \$184,425, and the estimated cost to complete all the works is \$210,000. The county with the smallest cost, its one-half mile of ditch having been put in at an expense of \$250, watering seventy acres of land and increasing the value of the watered land \$500, over double the cost of the ditch. Taking into consideration the small mileage, the most expensive works are in Franklin, where \$100,000 have been expended for 10 miles of ditches, watering 345 acres of land, the value of which is increased \$2,760. Under the law the applications filed with the State Board of Irrigation between April 4, 1895, and December 20, 1897, from 415 persons and companies who desire to appropriate the public waters of the state are being considered. The following totals: Miles of ditch, 2,770.95; estimated cost, \$6,573,351.55; number of acres to be watered, 3,185,737; value of water, \$20,000,000. A fact often when placed under irrigation, \$25,278,736.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICTS.

The act of 1895 authorized the establishment of irrigation districts so that a territory occupying a common watershed, or voice bonds to establish a common ditch. Some of the districts mentioned were formed for the purpose of purchasing the old ditches, so that where there were old ditches of lengthened and strengthened so as to be more accessible and more valuable to the people within the confines of the district. The irrigation districts were organized previous to December 30, 1897, were as follows: Custer county, three; Douglas Grove, Lillian and Middle Loup; bonds, voted, \$157,000; lands to be covered, 5,500 acres. Garfield county, two; Forks and Willow Springs; bonds, voted, \$39,800; lands to be covered, 15,000 acres. Keith county, two; Alalfa; bonds, voted, \$3,000; lands to be covered, 5,500 acres. Keith and Deuel counties, one; Western; bonds, voted, \$25,000; lands to be covered, 14,000 acres. Lincoln county, three; Maxwell and Brady Island, Gaslin and Suburban; bonds, voted, \$133,000; lands to be covered, 32,300 acres. Lincoln and Dawson counties, one; Lincoln and Dawson county irrigation district; bonds, voted, \$275,000; lands to be covered, 32,000 acres. Scott Bluff county, one; Gering; bonds, voted, \$115,000; lands to be covered, 20,000 acres. Scott Bluff and Cheyenne counties, one;

Farmer's irrigation district; amount of bonds voted and lands to be covered not yet reported.

GOSSIP FROM THE STATE HOUSE.

Applications from Nebraska Schools for Space at the Exposition.

LINCOLN, Feb. 5.—(Special).—The applications from the schools of Nebraska for space in the educational exhibit at the exposition are now all in and on file at the office of the state superintendent. Schools employing a total of 2,239 teachers have applied for space. These applications come from 293 rural districts, 178 graded schools, 5 state institutions, 3 private schools, 4 denominational schools and 1 Chautauque. The rural schools employ 293 teachers; the state institutions employ 1,100; the private and denominational, 85.

Although the applications for space can no longer be received, interest in the educational exhibit is still very keen. The superintendent of the state, and a large number of schools are sending representatives to Lincoln to get pointers and personal instructions as to how to make the exhibit. The superintendent's delegation came down from Lincoln, consisting of Superintendent Sams of the city schools, the entire corps of teachers and over fifty pupils. They spent the day at the office of the superintendent, and in the afternoon visited the state institutions. The superintendent will try for one of the penpans at the exposition. The superintendent of the Pen Normal school was at the state house today on educational business.

The Cuban Relief commission has received a letter of \$475 from the Epworth league of Loup City. The league there held a debate on the Cuban question, charged admission at the door, and gave the commission one-half of the door receipts.

The following notices were commended today: Jessie B. Barnes, Omaha; S. L. Stichter, Hastings; W. W. Wood, Lincoln; J. W. James, Wayne; L. M. Graham, Stockville; James C. Manly, Lincoln; J. C. Fought, Phillips; W. H. Wallace, Exeter.

Requisition papers have been issued for H. Bennett Woodson, alias H. Wilms, who is under arrest at Milwaukee, and is wanted in Omaha for forgery.

The Hugh McCaffrey real estate company of Omaha filed for incorporation today with a capital stock of \$100,000. The incorporators are Hugh McCaffrey, Owen McCaffrey and W. M. Hoshman.

The next meeting of the assembly is to be held at Lincoln this spring providing \$1,500 is raised to cover the expenses of fitting up the grounds. The local committee of the league has already secured \$750. A meeting of the Young Men's Board of Trade last night the other \$750 was pledged.

The suit wherein Mrs. Amanda Snyder is plaintiff and the State of Nebraska is defendant, was argued today in Lincoln. The jury returned a verdict last night, finding that the plaintiff was a resident of Nebraska and not of Kansas as stated in her petition. The court in the district court of Lancaster county, Mrs. Snyder was in Kansas sixteen days last fall, but having retained her rooms in this city, the jury decided that she was still a citizen of Nebraska.

A match shoot occurred at the grounds of the Lincoln Gun club yesterday afternoon between the Lincoln Gun club and George L. Carter. The match for \$25 a side was won by Mr. Carter in both the contest for live birds and for targets. He got nine birds out of twenty, while the other got several bunches of sweet potatoes last summer. The parties interested are all residents of Walker's Island.

EMERSON NOTES.

EMERSON, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special).—The Swedish Lutherans have organized a society here. Regular services are conducted by Rev. Swanburg of Oakland.

A. M. Sorenson, living north of town, is the farmer living nearest to the center of the crop averaged four tons to the acre.

Parties from Norfolk trying to make contracts for sugar beets. The application will file a new petition, bringing the suit in the name of the state of Nebraska. The receiver has in his hands about \$25,000 to be finally adjudicated, being a dividend on the original deposit of state money in the bank when the failure took place.

At the Lincoln meeting at the Lincoln-W. C. Wilcox, E. J. Anderson, Ed. W. Craig, H. O. Froelicher, P. L. Crane, P. L. Lewis, At the Lincoln-M. F. King, W. C. Brooks, I. M. Campbell, W. D. Jones, H. Hall, John L. Webster, Mrs. W. C. Brooks.

TO CLEAN UP CITY POLITICS.

Lincoln Republicans Organize with that End in View.

LINCOLN, Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram).—About 100 prominent Republicans, representing all the wards of the city, met in the city, met at republican headquarters tonight and organized a new club to be known as the "Hamilton club." The object of the new organization is to clear up the corruption that exists in the politics of this city and to place the party in better hands.

The officers of the club are: President, E. J. Maule, second vice president; E. R. Maule, secretary; A. W. Field, treasurer; Executive committee: Charles J. Whedon, John P. Maule, A. W. Field, J. W. Johnson, G. M. Lamberton, Roscoe Pound and E. P. Hulme. A public meeting will be called some time next week for a full discussion of the present sad condition of municipal affairs.

High School Strands Well.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special).—J. W. Crabtree, state inspector of the high schools of the State university, recently examined the West Point High school last Friday, and was well pleased with its condition and standing.

The Merchants' carnival, to be presented on Thursday night, February 10, at the Casino hall, promises to be the most novel entertainment ever presented by local talent. Over forty-four different business firms are represented, and the program abounds in original novelties.

Several farmers living in the vicinity of western Bismarck township received the first crop of the week, five pecked, Howard bulls. The fine animals were divided among Messrs. Wlechman, Clatsoff and Stigge.

West Point Court Notes.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special).—Judge Evans on Monday opened a term of district court here. The case against Fritz Eisanger resulted in Eisanger being found guilty and the judge sentenced him to sixty days' imprisonment, with every fifth day to subsist on bread and water, and to pay all costs of prosecution. The case against Bar-

New Woodmen of the World Camp.

WESTON, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special).—Joseph Wolfe of Omaha, deputy organizer, organized a camp of Woodmen of the World at this place this week. Officers as follows: John Engler, C. C. James Baser, A. L. John Brisk, B. Louis Blain, Arthur Mack, E.

Kenesaw Items.

KENESAW, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special).—The entertainment given by the Christian Epewor society here last night was a success financially. This is probably the only town in the state that has not had a case of Klondike fever.

Sherrif Will Use Bloodhounds.

BLAIR, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram).—Sheriff Menzies received two bloodhounds from Homerville, O., today by express. Hereafter he proposes to use them in tracking thieves and criminals in Washington and the adjoining counties.

Examiner Wilson Sent to Crawford.

LINCOLN, Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram).—The Grable bank at Crawford failed to open its doors yesterday. The State Banking board sent Examiner Wilson there last night and he now has the situation in charge.

Hearing Set for Monday.

HASTINGS, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram).—H. H. Herman, who was arrested yesterday for negotiating a fictitious draft, will have his hearing Monday before County Judge Bowen.

SCOTS' ROARIN' WINTER GAME

Curling Takes Firm Hold on Omaha's Exiled Scotchmen.

COLD DAYS PUT IN W' STANE AND BESOM

Brief Description of the Pastime that Holds Men All Day on the Ice Despite of Cold or Hunger.

The game of curling was so entirely new to this locality on its introduction a few months ago that it was looked upon as a strange and curious thing, the terms and purposes of which were hidden from the understanding of the average American. The attraction of it was acknowledged, however, when it was observed that men were willing to stand on the ice all day, dinnerless, without thought of hunger or cold.

The game has been played so constantly on the lagoon since that time that it has come to be an object of an intelligent public interest and people are beginning to understand what it means by channel stones, cramps and fits of the wind with spurs to break the feet) and the "besom" or green," with which the rink is swept.

The Omaha Curling club was organized about two months ago and has grown to an organization of about forty members. It has an abundant supply of stones and other equipment and is in the habit of meeting for play on Saturday afternoons, and often during the week if there has been a cold, frosty weather, sufficient for the purpose. The membership is made up entirely of natives of the land of cakes and is composed of the following members: J. G. Spalding, and was read at the meeting of the Chicago Athletic association to establish the curling club of Chicago. It can be induced to reconsider, which is not likely, the matter is at an end.

Amateur Billiard Tournament.

An amateur handbilliard tournament for the championship of Nebraska will be an attraction of the rooms on Douglas street this week. W. A. Travers, John A. Murphy and Fred Peyton will play 150 points each, J. K. Berry and Arthur Hoffmann, 125 points each, and Henry Will play Monday night, and in addition Fred Peyton will give an exhibition of fancy pool, the latter being a specialty of his.

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Harvard Base Bill Schedule.

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LEGAL QUARREL OVER PROPERTY.

Struggle for Possession of Valuable Envelope Machines.

The participants to the suit of the Carpenter Paper Company against the Western Envelope Company spent an uneasy night in the effort to get the contested property out of the city and in the seeking of referees for the arbitration of the case. The property consists of a considerable quantity of machinery for the manufacture of envelopes and has been the object of a quarrel that has been carefully covered over with paper of a similar material, and the warrant presented the (violation of a good \$10 bill.

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Veterans' Monument Association.

A meeting of the association will be held tomorrow evening at the usual place to consider matters of importance regarding the erection of the proposed soldiers' monument in the Forest Lawn cemetery. A full attendance is requested.

Robbed of Fourteen Dollars.

Bartholomew Queenan, a miner from Weir City, Kan., was assaulted and robbed of \$14 last night on the railroad tracks a short distance north of the city.

Forecast for Today's Weather.

Partly Cloudy and Warmer, with Northerly Winds. WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Forecast for Sunday: For Nebraska—Partly cloudy weather; warmer in eastern portion; southerly winds. For Iowa—Fair, followed by increasing cloudiness; warmer; southerly winds. For South Dakota—Threatening weather; colder in western portion; variable winds. For Missouri—Fair; warmer; variable winds, becoming southerly. For Kansas—Fair; warmer; southerly winds.

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